

THE VARGAS GAZETTE

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VARGAS, MURPHY, KUMEYAAY INDIANS CELEBRATE RENAMING OF HIGHWAY

On Saturday, January 31, 2004, Assemblymember Juan Vargas, San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy and various Tribal Leaders of the Kumeyaay Indians celebrated the unveiling of the Kumeyaay Highway sign that commemorates the new designation of Interstate-8.



Assemblymember Vargas speaks to San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy and attendees at the renaming ceremony of the new Kumeyaay Highway.

The renaming of the highway came about as a result of Assembly Resolution 156, authored by Assemblymember Vargas, which extends the designation of Interstate-8 from El Cajon to Mission Bay in San Diego in order to pay tribute to the Kumeyaay's original territory that bordered the Pacific Ocean.

"Today, we officially recognize the contributions and accomplishments that the Native Americans have made to our state," said Vargas. "It is only fitting that this highway should honor and bear the name of Kumeyaay Indians."



(Pictured from left to right) San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy, Jane Dumas of the Jamul Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Councilwoman Drucilla Espinoza (Viejas), Councilwoman Virginia M. Christman (Viejas), and Assemblymember Juan Vargas.

Today, the Kumeyaay nation is represented by 13 separate bands, those being the Barona, Cuyapaipe, Campo, Inaja-Cosmit, Jamul, LaPosta, Los Coyotes, Manzanita, Mesa Grande, San Pasqual, Santa Ysabel, Sycuan and Viejas Bands.



Louis Guassac, Ron Christman, Chairman Leroy Elliot (Manzanita), and Ral Christman perform the traditional Bird Song.